Navy Department P. Octo. 1838

M Dickerson

Sir

I have rec$^{d}$ your letter of the 28$^{th}$ Ult$^{o}$ applying for an appointment as Botanist in the South Sea Exploring expedition — Your work "Elements of Botany" affords sufficient evidence of your science & industry — & your recommendations are such as to leave no doubt of your fitness for the appointment you ask for. — As soon as the scientific corps for this expedition shall be detailed you will hear from me —

I am with great respect your
Obt. Hble. M. Dickerson

Dr. Asa Gray
New York

Washington 5th Nov. 1836

Dear Sir.

Raphael Doyle is recommended as a Landscape painter for the exploring Expedition — His recommendations are highly satisfactory — It wd. add very much to the importance of his pieces if he is an accurate draughtsman of botanical subjects — such a one we must have — You know Mr. Doyle & can inform me whether he is skilful in drawing plants — (conjointly or otherwise as you may think fit) —

It will be impossible to have an artist for each kind of drawg. we may want —

As Capt. Jones requires more than 600 seamen landsmen & boys for the expedition — and as we have not yet recruited more than 150. it will be two or three months before the crews can be procured —

It is my intention to have 6 or 8 of the gentlemen who are to be members of the Scientific corps on the Exploring expedition, at this place for a few days, as a board of arrangement & distribution of duties of the Corps —

I am with great respect

Your Obt. Ht. Sr. M. Dickerson

Dr. Asa Gray —

Free M. Dickerson.

FILE

Dr Asa Gray

New York.